STAINED GLASS.

A NEW painted window has been placed in St. Albans Abbey, on the south side of the nave, near the small door known as the abbot's entrance, from what were formerly the cloisters of the abbey. The window is a copy of the well-known fresco-painting on the wall of the north transept. The work has been executed by Mr. Clutterbuck.——The south transept lancet window of St. Mary's Church, Lichfield, has been enriched with a mixture of ancient and modern stained glass prepared by Mr. David Evans, of the Wyle Cop. There are three compartments, each having a separate figure, of ancient stained glass, and standing on a mosaic ground before a diapered curtain, of blue and red ground, surrounded by florid Gothic canopies, and tabernacle work. Each canopy springs from shafts, which extend up the sides, from square pedestals at the base of the window. In the centre opening is a figure of the Virgin Mary with the Infant Saviour in her arms, beneath which is a scroll. The left opening has the figure of St. Thomas; the right, St. Bartholomew. Under each of these is a scroll, with scriptural text. Mr. Charles Evans, son of Mr. David Evans, was the designer.——Two new stained-glass windows have been put up in the south aisle of Chester Cathedral by Wailes. The stone tracery is also new. Each window contains four principal compartments, illustrative of subjects from Scripture, surmounted by angels with scrolls and the usual emblematical devices; and beneath an inscription. In one window are delineated—the commission of Christ to St. Peter, "Feed my lambs,"—the Communication of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost,"—the selection of St. Matthias by lot to the Apostleship—and the Ordination of the Elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. The other window represents the Good Samaritan—the Return of the Prodigal Son—Dividing Fishes to the Apostles for the Multitude—and the Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard. It is to be hoped that means will soon be forthcoming to enable the chapter to undertake the groining of the nave, with other important renovations, which the dean has long had in contemplation. Besides the seven stained glass windows which the cathedral now possesses, three more are expected from other donors.

ARCHITECTURAL BOTANY.

AMONG all the details and minor accessories of architecture nothing in the present day is more neglected by architects than the foliated ornament of their buildings. They supply elaborate working drawings of all the moulded work, drawn out full size, but whenever they come to any foliated portion it is indicated in many cases by the roughest possible scratch of some ornament out of an authority, and the workman is left to do the best he can with it. Now I do not mean to say this ought not to be, but the mason ought to educate himself to be worthy of this trust, and it becomes the duty of the architect to assist him in doing so. The mason or carver, whether it be in wood or stone, must diligently study the works of our ancient buildings. This is most easily done from casts, and we have to thank those who are endeavouring to establish a museum of mediæval art in Cannon-row, Westminster, for their assistance to the workman in this respect, as he even now can go there and study casts of some of the most elegant specimens of foliated ornament from some of our most celebrated works of the mediæval period, and in our artizan schools he can learn to draw and model them.

But, Sir, this is not sufficient for the workman to do alone: he must not only study the works of our forefathers, but he must also, at the same time, study that book from which they culled such beauties: he must also go to the book of Nature, for it is not the object only to produce reproductions of these beauties, or even fresh combinations of them: the carver must do something more,—he must produce fresh designs and make use of new materials; —we want fresh beauties. We do not want repetition, for it was so beautiful: we want original work, and not less beautiful than the old.

To draw attention to this necessity, a series of lessons has been commenced at the North London Drawing School, Camden-town, upon "Architectural Botany," and we shall feel greatly gratified if the subject be entered into with that zealous feeling which will alone bring about success. For the purpose of these lessons, I have been preparing for some time past a series of illustrations of various specimens of natural foliage and flowers, collected from our gardens and hedges, as well as specimens of exotic plants obtained from the Palm House, at Kew. And, further, I intend taking every opportunity that other occupations will admit of extending this collection. In these lessons, therefore, it is proposed to draw before the pupils, they following to the best of their ability, some of our most beautiful leaves and flowers; also to endeavour to give them at the same time sufficient botanical knowledge to enable them to proceed in the study themselves, and induce them to take every opportunity that they may have of copying and familiarising themselves with nature.

JAMES K. COLLING.

THE FAMILY HOUSES OF THE BERLIN BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

THIS Berlin Association, alluded to in an earlier article, is formed of shareholders who receive 4 per cent. a year on their shares, and besides, are reimbursed to the whole amount of their shares within twenty-nine years of the payment thereof. When a house is built by the association, the whole outlay of capital is divided upon the tenants of the house, so that each pays 6 per cent. a year upon the expenses of his apartment. From this calculation are deducted,—first, a reserve fund (see below); and secondly, the probable running expenses of the house for the year. Of the 6 per cent. thus paid, 4 per cent. go to pay the interest upon the shares, the remaining 2 per cent. for paying back the capital, &c.

In this way the house is free from debt at the end of the twenty-ninth year; or, in other words, it then becomes the freehold property of the tenants, wherever the apartment has remained in the same family during the whole term of thirty years. Should any one of the families leave before this term of thirty years has expired, but having lived in its apartments for at least five years, a certain sum is paid out to it, proportionate to the interest it had acquired to the property of the house. For instance, the family that has rented a small apartment for only 2s. 6d. a week, upon leaving this apartment after five years' tenure, receives 6*l.* in cash; after ten years' tenure, 13*l.* 1s. and so on.

Thus, to the respectable and provident artizan and workman, a prospect is held out of acquiring a property for himself or his family by thirty years' good conduct in the same house; or if he should prefer to quit the house before, the building association stands to him in lieu of a savings bank, by paying a premium upon the number of years he and his family have resided under their roof.

To pay these premiums as necessity may require, is the principal object of the reserve fund before mentioned. The reserve fund acts besides as a guarantee, to the tenants as well as to the shareholders, of the association's engagements being always punctually fulfilled: it is also intended to supply the houses with good books and other means of instruction and entertainment. A special general meeting of the shareholders is to be convoked when the time for the dissolution approaches, *i. e.* when the thirty years above mentioned are nearly at an end: in winding up the affair then the reserve fund is to be disposed of for some purpose of public charity.

The association was formed in November, 1847: its patron is H. R. H. the Prince of Prussia, and it counts amongst its honorary members H. R. H. Prince Albert. Up to the end of 1851 fifteen houses had been newly constructed, and one fitted up anew: they contain 146 apartments, are inhabited by about 800 persons, one half of which number are children. The plans and prospectuses of the London Society for Improving the Dwellings of the Labouring Classes, kindly communicated to the Berlin Association, ever since its commencement, have been found infinitely useful for immediate adaptation to the local wants of Berlin. All preparations are now being made for introducing hollow bricks in the erection of new houses, for which purpose the Prussian Minister of Commerce, M. Vander Heijdt, has placed a machine from the establishment of Messrs. Randell and Saunders, at their disposal. The capital at present amounts to 8,000*l.*: the reserve fund (which is still increasing by presents from shareholders and others) consists of 750*l.* One of the shareholders undertakes, at the request of the chairman, the supervision and general management of each of the houses (Hans-Vorsteher). His services, as well as those of the chairman (M. Hoffmann, at present architect to the association) of the directors, treasurer, &c. are entirely gratuitous, the only paid *employé* of the association being the accountant clerk.

CONTRACTORS AND HOUSE-OWNERS.

IN the Marylebone County Court, recently, an action was brought to recover 10*l.* 15s. by Mr. Marin, a marble chimney-piece manufacturer, of Dr. Bartlett, under circumstances of some interest to parties contracting with builders to erect houses at a certain sum.

The plaintiff's evidence was that he supplied the two chimney-pieces charged for by the express order of Dr. Bartlett, and that he did not look to Mr. Rawlins, the surveyor and contracting builder to defendant's house, for the payment, although Mr. Rawlins had promised to see him, plaintiff, settled with for them. The defendant, upon being applied to for payment, said,—"Go to my surveyor: he has to erect my house on contract, and the chimney-pieces are in the specification."

The defendant said he did not consider himself liable to the claim. He had entered into a contract with Mr. Rawlins for 2,100*l.* to build him a house, and the contractor was to find materials and labour. He, however, stipulated with Mr. Rawlins, that he, defendant, was to select the marble chimney-pieces. This much he had done in the present claim, and nothing further. Mr. Rawlins measured and ordered the mantel-pieces, and plaintiff had, it appeared, applied to that person for payment. He was willing to pay plaintiff if Rawlins gave the order, so that he could legally deduct the amount from the contractor's agreed charge. He urged the injustice which might arise from the Court adopting the principle of holding owners of houses liable for materials supplied to contractors, as it might be that parties, after they had paid their contractor, would be called upon by timber merchants and other tradesmen to pay for the materials with which their house was built.

The Judge (Maude) said he considered the plaintiff had nothing to do with the contractor. Mr. Bartlett chose the chimney-pieces, and they were in his possession.

Verdict for the plaintiff.

THE IRON TRADE.

THERE still appears to be an upward tendency in prices, but we should hope that the obvious endeavours to produce a panic amongst purchasers will not succeed. It is alleged by those interested on behalf of the producers that they are so pressed for iron at the 20s. advance, and even at higher figures, while they have orders for the whole of the ensuing quarter at the low prices, that "they feel much hesitation in making sales." Meetings to arrange as to wages have been held in various quarters of the midland district.

The whole of the ironworks lately in blast in South Wales are said to be now fully employed, and it is stated that a number of those for some time out of blast will almost immediately be blown in. It is expected that the rate of wages will be advanced. The rise in price readily established upon bar, pig, and rail iron is computed at 20 per cent. Some of the works are said to have more orders on hand than they will be able to execute for a length of time to come.

In Scotland, the manufacture seems to be also in an active state. Every furnace in Fifeshire is said to be in full blast at present, and new ones are being constructed. At present, the blackband of the central coal-fields is

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